

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KINGST 00778 172044Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 SCA-01 MCT-01 /060 W
-----180346 083221 /14

R 172015Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4120

CONFIDENTIAL KINGSTON 0778

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, JM
SUBJECT: ORANGE STREET FIRE

1. IN A MINISTRY PAPER TABLED IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEB 17 THE JUDICIAL INQUIRER, FORMER JUDGE RONALD SMALL, DETERMINED THAT THE MAY 19 ORANGE STREET FIRE WAS "DELIBERATELY CALCULATED". THE PAPER, WHICH SUMMARIZES A SECRET REPORT CONCLUDED THAT THERE IS NO EVIDENCE TO LINK THE MAJOR POLITICAL PARTIES WITH THE FIRE. SMALL SAID THE FIRE WAS CARRIED OUT BY A "GANG OF YOUTHS STEERED BY A SMALL GROUP OF MACHIAVELLIAN MEN".

2. THE REPORT ACKNOWLEDGES THAT "THERE ARE THUGS AND HOODLUMS IN BOTH POLITICAL PARTIES BUT THAT THERE IS NO EVIDENCE TO SHOW THAT THESE GANGS ARE RECEIVING AID FROM PARTIES OR PARTY LEADERS.

3. THE REPORT BRIEFLY NOTES THAT THERE WERE SOME ALLEGATIONS THAT THE ORANGE STREET VIOLENCE HAD A "FOREIGN AND UN-JAMAICAN" CHARACTER.

4. COMMENT: THE ORANGE STREET FIRE WAS A PARTICULARLY GRUESOME EXAMPLE OF POLITICAL HOOLIGANISM GONE AMUCK. THE FIRE OCCURRED IN AN ACTIVELY CONTESTED POLITICAL JURIS-
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DICTION IN KINGSTON. THERE WERE REPORTS THAT JLP SYMPATHIZERS WERE NOT ALLOWED TO LEAVE THE BURNING BUILDINGS AND THAT BABIES WERE THROWN BACK INTO THE FLAMES. THERE WERE ALSO NUMEROUS ALLEGATIONS THAT "CIA AGENTS" HAD BEEN INVOLVED DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY AS PERPETRATORS. THE MINISTRY PAPER TABLED FEB 17 IS ONLY THE FIRST PHASE OF AN OVERALL REPORT ON VIOLENCE IN JAMAICA. IT'S FAILURE TO

PIN DOWN RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE FIRE WILL INEVITABLY LEAD
PIN DOWN RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE FIRE WILL INEVITABLY LEAD
TO CHARGES THAT THE REPORT IS A WHITEWASH. THE REPORT
ITSELF WAS KEPT SECRET TO PROTECT THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF
SOURCES.

GERARD

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CIVIL DISORDERS, POLITICAL PARTIES, ARSON, INVESTIGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 17-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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SAS ID: 3298488
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ORANGE STREET FIRE
TAGS: PINT, JM
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